

**U.S. District Court
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:17-cv-02570-TNM**

HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES v. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE et al
Assigned to: Judge Trevor N. McFadden
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 11/30/2017
Jury Demand: None
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of Information Act
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

Plaintiff

**HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE
UNITED STATES**

represented by **Daniel H. Waltz**
ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND
525 E. Cotati Avenue
Cotati, CA 94931
(707) 795-2533 Ext. 1066
Email: dwaltz@aldf.org
TERMINATED: 04/05/2018
LEAD ATTORNEY

Peter A. Brandt
HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES
Animal Protection Litigation
1255 23rd Street, NW
Suite 450
Washington, DC 20037
(240) 388-5023
Fax: (202) 778-6134
Email: pbrandt@humanesociety.org
LEAD ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Margaret E. Robinson
HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES
Animal Protection Litigation
1255 23rd Street, NW
Suite 450
Washington, DC 20037
(202) 676-2369
Email: mrobinson@humanesociety.org
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

V.

Defendant

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE**

represented by **Claire M. Whitaker**
U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
555 Fourth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20530
(202) 252-2526
Fax: (202) 252-2505
Email: claire.whitaker@usdoj.gov
LEAD ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Melanie Dyani Hendry
U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

555 Fourth Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20530
 (202) 252-2510
 Fax: (202) 252-2599
 Email: melanie.hendry2@usdoj.gov
LEAD ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Fred Elmore Haynes
 U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE
 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 555 Fourth Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20530
 (202) 252-2550
 Email: fred.haynes@usdoj.gov
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Defendant

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

represented by **Claire M. Whitaker**
 (See above for address)
LEAD ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Melanie Dyani Hendry
 (See above for address)
LEAD ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Fred Elmore Haynes
 (See above for address)
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
11/30/2017	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against FARM SERVICE AGENCY, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (Filing fee \$ 400 receipt number 0090-5228052) filed by HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>2</u> Summons Agency – USDA, # <u>3</u> Summons Agency – FSA, # <u>4</u> Summons Attorney General, # <u>5</u> Summons US Attorney for DC)(Lutz, Daniel) (Entered: 11/30/2017)
11/30/2017	<u>2</u>	Corporate Disclosure Statement by HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES. (Lutz, Daniel) (Entered: 11/30/2017)
12/04/2017	<u>3</u>	REQUEST FOR SUMMONS TO ISSUE <i>with Corrected Summons Attached</i> filed by HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Corrected USDA Summons, # <u>2</u> Corrected Farm Service Agency Summons, # <u>3</u> Corrected Attorney General Summons, # <u>4</u> Corrected US Attorney Summons)(Lutz, Daniel) (Entered: 12/04/2017)
12/05/2017		Case Assigned to Judge Trevor N. McFadden. (zsb) (Entered: 12/05/2017)
12/05/2017	<u>4</u>	SUMMONS (4) Issued Electronically as to FARM SERVICE AGENCY, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachment: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(zsb) (Entered: 12/05/2017)
12/15/2017	<u>5</u>	STANDING ORDER Establishing Procedures for Cases Before Judge Trevor N. McFadden. The parties are hereby ORDERED to read and comply with the directives in the attached standing order. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 12/15/2017. (lctnm3) (Entered: 12/15/2017)
12/18/2017	<u>6</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 12/12/2017. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 1/11/2018. (Lutz, Daniel) (Entered: 12/18/2017)

12/18/2017	<u>7</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 12/12/2017. (Lutz, Daniel) (Entered: 12/18/2017)
12/18/2017	<u>8</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE served on 12/11/2017 (Lutz, Daniel) (Entered: 12/18/2017)
01/11/2018	<u>9</u>	ANSWER to <u>1</u> Complaint by FARM SERVICE AGENCY, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.(Whitaker, Claire) Modified to add link on 1/12/2018 (znmw). (Entered: 01/11/2018)
01/12/2018		MINUTE ORDER. Before the Court are a complaint and an answer in this FOIA case. It is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall meet and confer and file a Joint Status Report proposing a schedule for proceeding in this matter. The schedule should address, among other things, the status of Plaintiff's FOIA request, the anticipated number of documents responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request, the anticipated date(s) for release of the documents requested by Plaintiff, whether a motion for an <i>Open America</i> stay is likely in this case, whether a <i>Vaughn</i> index will be required in this case, and a briefing schedule for dispositive motions, if required. The parties shall file the schedule on or before February 2, 2018. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 1/12/2018. (lctnm3) (Entered: 01/12/2018)
01/12/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Parties shall meet and confer and file a Joint Status Report by 2/2/2018. (hmc) (Entered: 01/12/2018)
01/31/2018	<u>10</u>	Consent MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>file Joint Status Report</i> by FARM SERVICE AGENCY, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Whitaker, Claire) (Entered: 01/31/2018)
02/01/2018		MINUTE ORDER granting Defendants' <u>10</u> Consent Motion for Extension of Time. The parties shall now file a Joint Status Report on or before February 16, 2018. The parties are advised that further requests for an extension of time for this filing will be disfavored, and are directed to comply with the Court's Standing Order, including the provisions governing motions for extensions of time. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 2/1/2018. (lctnm3) (Entered: 02/01/2018)
02/01/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 2/16/2018. (hmc) (Entered: 02/01/2018)
02/16/2018	<u>11</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FARM SERVICE AGENCY, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Whitaker, Claire) (Entered: 02/16/2018)
02/16/2018	<u>12</u>	ORDER setting schedule for proceedings in this case. See Order for details. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 2/16/2018. (lctnm3) Modified on 2/21/2018 (hmc). (Entered: 02/16/2018)
02/20/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 4/27/2018. (hmc) (Entered: 02/20/2018)
04/05/2018	<u>13</u>	NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTION OF COUNSEL by Peter A. Brandt on behalf of All Plaintiffs Substituting for attorney Daniel Lutz (Brandt, Peter) (Entered: 04/05/2018)
04/27/2018	<u>14</u>	Second STATUS REPORT (<i>Joint</i>) by FARM SERVICE AGENCY, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. (Whitaker, Claire) (Entered: 04/27/2018)
04/30/2018		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>14</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall, before or on May 29, 2018, file a further Joint Status Report proposing a schedule for proceeding in this matter, including, if necessary, a briefing schedule for dispositive motions. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 4/30/2018. (lctnm3) (Entered: 04/30/2018)
04/30/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: A further Joint Status Report due by 5/29/2018. (hmc) (Entered: 04/30/2018)
05/22/2018	<u>15</u>	Consent MOTION for Extension of Time to File <i>the Next Joint Status Report</i> by FARM SERVICE AGENCY, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF

		AGRICULTURE (Haynes, Fred) (Entered: 05/22/2018)
05/23/2018		MINUTE ORDER granting Defendants' <u>15</u> Consent Motion for Extension of Time. The parties' Joint Status Report shall now be due before or on June 13, 2018. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 5/22/2018. (lctnm3) (Entered: 05/23/2018)
05/23/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 6/13/2018. (hmc) (Entered: 05/23/2018)
06/13/2018	<u>16</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Brandt, Peter) (Entered: 06/13/2018)
06/13/2018		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties' <u>16</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a further joint status report before or on July 13, 2018. It is also ORDERED that prior to signing any future filings on behalf of the Defendants, Ms. Hendry shall enter an appearance in this matter. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 6/13/2018. (lctnm3) (Entered: 06/13/2018)
06/14/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 7/13/2018. (hmc) (Entered: 06/14/2018)
07/13/2018	<u>17</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by FARM SERVICE AGENCY, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Whitaker, Claire) (Entered: 07/13/2018)
07/17/2018	<u>18</u>	SCHEDULING ORDER setting briefing schedule in response to parties' <u>17</u> Joint Status Report and Proposed Order. See attached order for details. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 07/17/2018. (lctnm3) (Entered: 07/17/2018)
07/17/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Defendants' motion for summary judgment due by 9/17/2018. Plaintiff's opposition to Defendants' motion for summary judgment and cross-motion due by 10/17/2018. Defendants' opposition to Plaintiff's cross-motion and reply in support of their motion for summary judgment due by 10/31/2018. Plaintiff's reply in support of its cross-motion due by 11/13/2018. (hmc) (Entered: 07/17/2018)
09/11/2018	<u>19</u>	Joint MOTION for Extension of Time to File <i>Summary Judgment Briefs</i> by FARM SERVICE AGENCY, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (Hendry, Melanie) (Entered: 09/11/2018)
09/11/2018		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' <u>19</u> Joint Motion to Amend Briefing Schedule, it is hereby ORDERED that: (1) Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment shall be filed on or before November 1, 2018; (2) Plaintiff's opposition to Defendants' motion and Plaintiff's Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment shall be filed on or before December 3, 2018; (3) Defendants' opposition to Plaintiff's cross-motion and Defendants' reply in support of their motion shall be filed on or before December 19, 2018; and (4) Plaintiff's reply shall be filed on or before January 16, 2019. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 9/11/2018. (lctnm3) (Entered: 09/11/2018)
09/12/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment due by 11/1/2018. Plaintiff's opposition Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment and Cross-Motion due by 12/3/2018. Defendants' reply in support of their Motion for Summary Judgment and opposition to Plaintiff's Cross-Motion due by 12/19/2018. Plaintiff's reply in support of its Cross-Motion due by 1/16/2019. (hmc) (Entered: 09/12/2018)
09/18/2018	<u>20</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Margaret E. Robinson on behalf of HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES (Robinson, Margaret) (Entered: 09/18/2018)
10/24/2018	<u>21</u>	AMENDED COMPLAINT against All Defendants filed by HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit redline comparison of the original and amended complaint)(Brandt, Peter) (Entered: 10/24/2018)
10/24/2018	<u>22</u>	NOTICE of Filing of First Amended Complaint by HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES re <u>21</u> Amended Complaint (Robinson, Margaret) (Entered: 10/24/2018)
10/29/2018	<u>23</u>	Joint MOTION to Modify <i>the Briefing Schedule re Summary Judgment Motion</i> by FARM SERVICE AGENCY, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (Hendry, Melanie) Modified event title on 10/30/2018 (znmw).

		(Entered: 10/29/2018)
10/30/2018		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' <u>23</u> Joint Motion to Amend Briefing Schedule, it is hereby ORDERED that (1) Defendants' motion for summary judgment shall be filed on or before December 11, 2018; (2) Plaintiff's opposition and any cross-motion shall be filed on or before January 11, 2019; (3) Defendants' reply and opposition to any cross-motion shall be filed on or before January 25, 2019; and (4) Plaintiff's reply shall be filed on or before February 8, 2019. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 10/30/2018. (lctnm3) (Entered: 10/30/2018)
10/30/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Defendants' motion for summary judgment due by 12/11/2018. Plaintiff's opposition to Defendants' motion for summary judgment and cross-motion due by 1/11/2019. Defendants' reply and opposition to any cross-motion due by 1/25/2019. Plaintiff's reply in support of its cross-motion due by 2/8/2019. (hmc) (Entered: 10/30/2018)
11/07/2018	<u>24</u>	ANSWER to <u>21</u> Amended Complaint by FARM SERVICE AGENCY, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.(Hendry, Melanie) (Entered: 11/07/2018)
12/11/2018	<u>25</u>	MOTION for Partial Summary Judgment by FARM SERVICE AGENCY, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration of Barbara McLean)(Hendry, Melanie) Modified event title on 12/17/2018 (znmw). (Entered: 12/11/2018)
12/21/2018	<u>26</u>	MOTION for Extension of Time to File <i>pposition and cross-motion for summary judgment</i> by HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Brandt, Peter); Modified event on 12/27/2018 (ztth). (Entered: 12/21/2018)
01/04/2019		MINUTE ORDER granting Plaintiffs <u>26</u> Motion for Extension of Briefing Schedule. Plaintiffs <u>26</u> Motion to Extend Briefing is hereby GRANTED. Plaintiff shall file any motion to compel a Vaughn Index on or before January 11, 2019, and Defendant shall respond to any such motion on or before January 25, 2019. Plaintiffs Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment and Opposition to Defendants <u>25</u> Partial Motion for Summary Judgment shall now be filed on or before February 11, 2019; Defendants opposition to Plaintiffs Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment and Reply in Support of its <u>25</u> Motion for Partial Summary Judgment shall be filed on or before February 25, 2019; and Plaintiffs Reply in Support of its Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment shall be filed on or before March 8, 2019. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 1/4/2019. (lctnm2) (Entered: 01/04/2019)
01/04/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Plaintiff's motion to compel a Vaughn Index due by 1/11/2019. Defendants' response to any such motion due by 1/25/2019. Plaintiff's Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment and opposition to Defendants' Partial Motion for Summary Judgment due by 2/11/2019. Defendants' opposition to Plaintiff's Cross-Motion and reply in support their Motion for Partial Summary Judgment due by 2/25/2019. Plaintiff's reply in support of its Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment due by 3/8/2019. (hmc) (Entered: 01/04/2019)